Dear Mr. Bates, 9/12/94

I appreciate your compliment and the offer of the Hosty tapes. If you do not want to keep it, yes. Not to take time for but to deposit, in fairness to him, at the local College where all I have will be.

He was in an impossible situation and he has always been excessively defensive, to the point where he made grossly unfair charges against others in the Dallas office. Besides being rather much the captive of his own political beliefs he was victimized by FBIHQ. I think it was unfair to discipline him. (And you are still trying with your computer. After more than 65 years, this is my typing. Which was not all that bad 65 years ago!)

If I may suggest it, those who did not want to talk about the assassination in the KC office probably knew from others or from instinct that it was better not to. If you saw some of the HQ records I have you'd understand this. They were really uptight on it and not without cause. It is probable that most in HQ knew that Hoover decided immediately that it was the work of a lone nut.

May I suggest that when you get these books you read first the transcript of the 1/22/64 Commission executive session transcript, (p475) and then resume the order of appearance. Unless perhaps also the first chapter of PM. I think it will cue you on on the Commission as few other things can.

In WWIV I understate about Senator Russell a bit. Not on what was done to him but on his basic disagreements without appreciating how basic they were. Cooper agreed with him. I've written a lengthy article, "Senator Russell Dissents" that, if I live long enough, I'll expand into a book, if not for publication for the record for history. I have a memo to him from his assistant saying correctly that in what I wrote about the single-bullet theory I agree with Russell.

WW II was not originally intended to be a book. I'd been asked to write a series of long articles, and then the interest in them died. So I put them together with a few words here and there and called it a book.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg